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Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

Summary

The present report highlights the main findings of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti following its visits to Washington, D.C., and to Haiti and in the light of meetings held in New York. The Advisory Group welcomes the tangible progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social fronts, which goes well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expresses concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in the current political context. Despite these concerns, the Group emphasizes the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, in terms of both natural disasters and economic shocks, and the need to sustain the development progress that has been achieved. United Nations support must be adapted to better answer these needs, in the context of the transition to a possible consolidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Group also advocates a "Delivering as one" approach to guide United Nations action on the ground. In addition, it calls for increased aid effectiveness through improved and simplified donor support and accelerated governance reforms by the Haitian authorities, with a view to creating new momentum for effective development support for the country.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.
** Submitted late in order to reflect the latest developments in Haiti.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is the tenth submitted by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti since its reactivation in 2004. Following a request made by the Government of Haiti at the time, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 2004/52, in which it decided to reactivate the Group, which was established in 1999 to help coordinate the development of a long-term programme of support for the country.

Mandate and composition of the Group

2. In accordance with Council decisions 2004/322, 2009/211, 2009/267, 2011/207, 2011/211, 2013/209, 2014/207, 2014/210 and 2014/221, the Group is composed of the permanent representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay to the United Nations and the representative of the United States of America to the Economic and Social Council. Since its first meeting, on 23 November 2004, the Group has been chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. As stipulated in decision 2004/322, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti are invited to take part in the Group's meetings.

3. In its resolution 2013/15, the Economic and Social Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until its substantive session in July 2014, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on long-term national development priorities, building on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms. The Council requested the Group to report on its activities to the Council at its substantive session of 2014.

Outline of the activities of the Group

4. The Group's visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti are the basis for most of the conclusions contained in the present report. On 28 April 2014, the Group went to Washington, D.C., where it met senior officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS). A working lunch with representatives of the American Jewish World Service, a non-governmental organization (NGO) active in Haiti, was also organized. From 12 to 15 May 2014, the Group carried out its annual visit to Haiti, where it met President Michel Martelli, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, Minister for Foreign Affairs Duly Brutus, the President of the Senate, Dieuseul Simon Desras, other high-level officials, civil society representatives and a wide range of development actors. The Group also visited projects led by United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as well as a camp for internally displaced persons in metropolitan Port-au-Prince supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

5. In preparation for and to debrief on the two visits, the Group organized meetings with the Group of Friends of Haiti in New York, including a meeting with

Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary-General of OAS, and a working session with Yves Robert Jean, Director-General of Planning of Haiti, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti.

6. The members of the Group wish to express their profound gratitude to the Haitian authorities, civil society representatives and development partners of the country who gave freely of their time to explain their activities and share their analysis with the Group in Haiti, New York and Washington, D.C. The Group wishes to express its particular appreciation to the highest authorities of Haiti for the open and constructive exchange it had with them. In addition, the Group is grateful to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for its constant and dedicated support for its work; to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the two Deputy Special Representatives; and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. during the Group's visit, as well as the entire United Nations country team for their excellent support. The Group is also grateful to the international financial institutions and OAS for their continued interaction and their willingness to share views and analysis. The programme of the Group's visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti is contained in the annex to the present report.

II. Momentum for development on the ground

7. With a growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, Haiti has reached a new phase in its development process. The level of economic activity and the physical improvements in Port-au-Prince are a great source of encouragement. Efforts made by the Government to reach out to the private sector and promote investment have obviously led to positive results, in particular with regard to road infrastructure, the construction of private housing and the opening of new hotels and businesses. The Group was pleased to note the useful role of the United Nations system, in particular UNOPS, in these efforts. The construction of infrastructure in the provinces (including roads, airports and wharves) is also promising. While the Group witnessed strong signs of recovery in 2013 (see E/2013/90, in particular paras. 8 and 9), this year's visit has shown that the country is now engaged in a construction and development phase that goes well beyond post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.

8. Inflation has fallen from 6.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent (year to year), with a modest depreciation of the gourde. In this context, the International Monetary Fund has qualified the macroeconomic performance in fiscal year 2013 as favourable and performance under the Fund's Extended Credit Facility-supported programme as broadly satisfactory. In an international context marked by slow recovery and continued economic constraints in many parts of the world, this generally positive performance by Haiti deserves to be highlighted.

9. The overall objective of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti formulated by the Government for the period 2010-2030 is for the country to become an emerging country within 15 years. Although this requires massive investments and a marked increase in the average income of the population, recent progress suggests that Haiti has embarked on a path that can bring it closer to this ambitious goal if progress is sustained and Haiti does not relapse into political turmoil.

10. Some social progress was also observed. It is estimated that poverty decreased by 4-5 per cent in urban areas, although inequalities remain high. The country's 2013 Millennium Development Goals report, "*Haïti : un nouveau regard*", launched earlier this year by the Government of Haiti and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), indicates that important progress has been made on most Millennium Development Goal indicators. Extreme poverty has declined from 31 per cent to 24 per cent since 2000, and some targets have been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half in the number of underweight children. The Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics issued new data based on a Household Living Conditions Survey supported by the World Bank, which show that both income and access to services have improved.

11. The Government has been paying increased attention to extreme poverty and implements several cash-transfer programmes targeting the poorest. Through these programmes, for example, students can receive direct subsidies and poor mothers whose children attend schools are supported. Progress has also been made on Millennium Development Goal 2, on education, with school attendance reaching 88 per cent. Food assistance programmes, including the opening of community restaurants, are also laudable initiatives, in particular in rural areas, where extreme poverty remains widespread and local food production should be further supported.

12. Following the same trend, child mortality has decreased by 44 per cent since 1990, at a faster pace than globally, and 90 per cent of women have at least one prenatal care visit during pregnancy, thereby contributing to a marked decrease in maternal mortality, estimated at 157 per 100,000 live births by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, which released maternal mortality statistics for the first time in 2013. It is recalled that, according to the findings of the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (*Enquête mortalité, morbidité et utilisation des services, EMMUS V*), the fertility rate in Haiti dropped from 6.3 children per woman in 1987 to 4 in 2006 and 3.5 in 2012, an encouraging trend that will have major consequences for the long-term development of the country, especially if positive results are also achieved in rural areas. During its visit, the Group witnessed the effective support provided by UNFPA and MINUSTAH to a nursing and midwifery school as well as to maternity clinics in the metropolitan area, and it was impressed by the involvement of Haitian health professionals in the building of facilities that make a difference in women's lives.

13. At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue took several steps forward earlier this year. Through the political agreement known as the El Rancho accord, which was facilitated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, the decision was made to hold combined elections by 26 October 2014 for two thirds of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. It also called for the conversion of the transitional Electoral Council into a new provisional Electoral Council, with each branch of government able to replace one of its three members. Following the agreement, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Deputies adopted an electoral law, which remains to be approved by the Senate. Although this process has not eased political tensions, in particular between the executive branch and a group of six senators, the fact that political parties are holding a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, is a step in the right direction in building the capacity of the society to devise collective solutions.

14. However, this process must be completed by the organization of long-overdue elections in order to avoid a situation in which local authorities and the National Assembly no longer enjoy a legal mandate and the Government is placed in a position where it would be necessary to set a date for elections, and carry out other functions, by decree. This could have detrimental effects on the confidence of donors and the delivery of development support to Haiti, where the risk of donor fatigue is always present, even among long-term partners. Ensuring the proper functioning of fundamental political institutions must be a priority, inasmuch as international support remains of crucial importance for the full realization of Haiti's development objectives.

III. Need for continued donor engagement

15. Development processes require time, and this applies even more to Haiti given its vulnerability to man-made and natural disasters. Political instability has prevailed over the past three decades and can still jeopardize development support. In that respect, the decisions of Haitian political actors are the key factors. However, there are other risks over which Haitians have little control. Natural disasters, particularly flooding resulting from hurricanes and earthquakes, are recurrent obstacles to development and have led to the degradation of Haiti's physical environment.

16. In addition, Haiti is a small economy open to the world and is therefore sensitive to regional and global trends. An increase in the price of commodities can create shocks to the Haitian economy, with direct consequences, for instance, in the energy and transportation sectors, putting additional pressure on the Government to absorb such increases through public subsidies. Similarly, the volatility of other commodities, in particular wheat and rice, has direct effects on the country's balance of payments.

17. The energy sector is broadly considered to be one of the weakest parts of the Haitian economy, with insufficient infrastructure and poor management. The rehabilitation of the Peligre dam is a promising step. However, the process of transforming public utilities will necessarily take time, and the Government is likely to absorb deficits in this area for a long period before the system can be effectively restructured.

18. Building capacities in Haiti is a long process that will require continued involvement by all relevant actors in order to achieve sustainable progress. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2010 (Istanbul Programme of Action) calls for the international community to mobilize sustained support to strengthen the productive capacities of the least developing countries, a group that includes Haiti, under the leadership of those countries. In the case of Haiti, special attention needs to be given to the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors.

19. The education sector is another with respect to which time is needed. As mentioned above, concrete results have been achieved in terms of school construction and access to education, including through a dedicated conditional cash transfer programme and the establishment of a new tax to fund it. However, all actors recognize that the quality of education remains insufficient and will continue to be so until the structures to train future teachers and enforce education standards are in place and commensurate with the needs of the country.

20. Progress on the environmental front also remains very uneven. A significant increase in forest plantations has not yet reversed the trend towards deforestation (natural forests represent only 2 per cent of the land area), inasmuch as over 90 per cent of Haitian households continue to use charcoal to cook their meals. The Group noted the increased consumption of propane gas, facilitated by tax incentives and subsidies, and its use in houses rebuilt with the support of UNOPS in the metropolitan area, which the Group visited. The United Nations system has a catalytic role to play in this respect and should continue to do so through its portfolio of projects and by scaling up such innovations when they are successful. Much remains to be done to achieve effective environmental protection, with a needed focus on biodiversity protection and sanitation.

21. The state reform process, led by the Office of Management and Human Resources, under the Office of the Prime Minister, is conceived as a long-term exercise that may take up to 10 years. Meanwhile, mentoring activities by the United Nations system and other development partners are crucial to steadily enhance skills in the public service, both in the central administration and in the provinces and municipalities, where capacities are particularly weak. Consequently, the continued technical and financial involvement of partners, including in the strengthening of the École nationale d'administration publique and the provision of equipment and facilities, remains a necessary condition for reaching the ambitious development goals that have rightly been set by the Government.

22. While the growth rate and newly released statistics on poverty are encouraging, many economists and development partners with whom the Group met, including from the international financial institutions, expect that it will take time before growth can be significantly reflected in the living standards of the population. This is all the more problematical because income inequality has increased in Haiti, whose Gini coefficient decreased from 0.66 in 2012 to 0.61 in 2001. The official unemployment rate is 27 per cent, and it is estimated that two thirds of the population is unemployed or underemployed. According to the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, employment does not allow many individuals to satisfy their basic needs, as 44.9 per cent of working persons live on less than $1.25 a day. Rising inequality is a destabilizing factor that should not be underestimated. Continued investment in other ways to reduce poverty, pending more widespread benefits of growth to the population, is therefore a requirement.

23. According to recent figures, some 90,000 displaced persons continue to live in camps, a sharp decrease compared with 1.3 million following the earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, are extremely poor. In spite of training and awareness-raising activities implemented by IOM and other organizations, the national and international presence in these camps did not appear to the Group as being commensurate with the needs of the population and with the threat that diseases, including those that have recently appeared in the country, such as cholera and chikungunya, constitute for these vulnerable persons. The Group therefore calls for continued humanitarian assistance. It also stresses the important role of IOM and the United Nations system in these efforts, given that a significant number of international NGOs have ceased their operations in the country after providing emergency assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake and the cholera outbreak.

24. While the Group understands the concern, raised by the Haitian authorities, that the continued provision of services encourages the displaced persons to become long-term residents of these camps, the Group also stresses the importance of well-targeted support for populations in such precarious conditions, particularly as far as access to water and sanitation is concerned. Such support can also include subsidies for the relocation of people and the dismantling of tents, as witnessed by the Group in Camp Dahomey, where the exercise was supported by IOM. National actors are expected to play a proactive role in providing sustainable solutions and to solicit support from the international community when needed.

25. Momentum is being generated in Haiti that needs to be supported in an appropriate manner. The possibility of a sharp decrease in international support is a matter of concern for many actors working on the ground. It is also a concern for the sustainability of United Nations support for Haiti, which is undergoing a transition phase.

IV. Adapting United Nations support in the context of transition

26. The United Nations country team in Haiti consists of 19 agencies, funds and programmes. The size and scope of their activities have varied significantly in past years, with a significant increase following the January 2010 earthquake and a steady decrease since 2012. The latter is due to reduced funding, in particular the non-replenishment of the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, set up after the earthquake. These fluctuations have made it difficult for the entities concerned to adjust to the changing needs of the country and limit their capacity to take over functions from a consolidated MINUSTAH. The Group stresses the important role that the United Nations country team carries out in supporting the Haitian authorities, in particular during the transition phase in which the United Nations presence is engaged, and calls upon donors to ensure that funding to support key government priorities is provided. The Group also welcomes the recent decision by the International Labour Organization to re-establish a permanent presence in Haiti.

27. The common approach and cooperation mechanism among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, together with the activities of MINUSTAH in the development field, are reflected in the integrated strategic framework. The current framework is a four-year strategy for the period 2013-2016 that, in addition to economic and social programmes, places an emphasis on support for the rule of law, governance and disaster risk management. It is aligned with the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and has been endorsed by the Government.

28. Earlier this year, heads of agency decided to anticipate the midterm review of the integrated strategic framework in order to better take into account new elements such as the possible consolidation of MINUSTAH, longer-term programming, new strategic documents from the Government, including its triennial investment plan, and new sources of data for baselines and indicators. The Group welcomes this initiative and looks forward to learning more about the revised framework.

29. In this context, the Group stresses the need to take additional steps towards a "Delivering as one" approach to the work of the United Nations system in Haiti. As Haiti evolves away from a humanitarian and reconstruction phase to embrace a true development process, modalities for more integrated functioning of United Nations entities should be defined. In addition to maximizing the use of resources, such an

approach could create incentives for the Government to develop national programmes across ministerial lines and to turn to the United Nations system for joint funding. It would also make it easier for donors to channel support through the United Nations system, thanks to increased clarity and flexibility. The Group calls upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti to take proactive steps in this direction and encourages United Nations entities on the ground, including UNDP, to engage in these efforts.

30. The Group witnessed the added value of joint efforts by several United Nations entities when it visited the new National Midwifery School (École nationale des infirmières sages-femmes), whose construction was undertaken by engineering units of MINUSTAH while equipment, supplies, the revision of the curriculum and technical support for operations are being provided by UNFPA. The facility, located within Haiti's largest maternity hospital, has opened its doors to 80 midwifery students after two years of disruption following the collapse of the former school building during the earthquake. The Group also visited a maternity and family planning centre, supported by UNFPA in collaboration with UNOPS and United Nations Volunteers, in Port-au-Prince. It encourages the United Nations system to expand such activities in the provinces, given the continued need to improve maternal health throughout the country.

31. Similarly, the Group recalls the integrated programme called "Initiative Côte Sud" run by several agencies (UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNOPS, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others), which it visited in 2013. This project, aimed at promoting sustainable development in the South Department, constitutes a "Delivering as one" experience at the local level that could usefully inspire other initiatives of the United Nations system on a wider scale.

32. The Group was pleased to note the emphasis placed by the United Nations system on the strengthening of national capacities. For example, in the health sector, the World Health Organization and the United Nations system at large support the Government's plans and the Secretary-General himself has launched the second phase of a major vaccination campaign against cholera as well as a sanitation campaign in the Centre Department, together with the Prime Minister. The United Nations system also provides important support for the Haitian structures set up to prevent and manage disasters.

33. The work of United Nations specialized agencies in Haiti may not always be very visible, as it is focused on developing capacities and implies a longer-term involvement in mentoring national structures in support of sectoral ministries. It is, however, very important to increase the absorptive capacities of the Haitian institutions.

34. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (see S/2014/617), the consolidation and transition process in which MINUSTAH is now engaged is expected to lead to a reduced physical and staffing footprint of the Mission, beyond the troops themselves. Incremental disengagement from the Mission is therefore likely in areas related to institution-building. In its report to the Council last year (E/2013/90), the Group recognized that the gradual transfer of responsibility for activities from MINUSTAH to United Nations agencies in such areas as governance, human rights and disaster preparedness might prove difficult, given budgetary constraints. Special efforts are therefore needed to secure continued assistance by the United Nations system in peacebuilding-related areas.

35. The Group welcomes the idea of a comprehensive transition plan exercise involving MINUSTAH, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Government of Haiti and donors that contribute to the United Nations system on the ground. Increased cooperation among United Nations entities to optimize the use of resources is part of the solution, in the spirit of "Delivering as one" initiatives. Joint mobilization of resources will also be important in order to involve donors. Throughout this process, United Nations agencies should provide backup and means to their offices in Haiti commensurate with their needs in these exceptional circumstances.

36. The question of a contingency plan for the United Nations humanitarian and development activities in case of a significant reduction in the presence of MINUSTAH should also be addressed, although there seems to be a general agreement as to the maintenance of a strong police component in the Mission. Indeed, support provided to the Haitian National Police should be maintained at a high level, at least until the objective of 15,000 officers, set for 2016, is reached. At the time of reporting, the strength of the national police stood at approximately 11,000 officers (less than 19 per cent of whom are women), which calls for continued efforts to recruit and train cadets. The donor community should keep in mind that the proper functioning of the national police is key for embedding the rule of law in Haiti and sustaining development gains, and that these go hand in hand.

V. Increasing aid effectiveness

37. Since the mandate of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission ended in October 2012, the relationship between the Government of Haiti and its development partners has been based on the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, which outlines a longer-term vision and articulates the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need for governance reform. The Strategic Plan has been translated into successive triennial investment plans that focus on growth acceleration and poverty reduction and are to be included in the annual finance law.

38. The Strategic Plan makes explicit reference to the effectiveness of development assistance, including effective control by beneficiary countries over their development policy, the coordination of assistance and the alignment of donor support for the country's strategies.

39. In practice, donor coordination in Haiti is facilitated by the Group of Twelve Plus, an informal forum for donor coordination where 15 bilateral and multilateral actors meet at least once a month, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, whose office provides secretariat support to the group. In addition, the UNDP Country Director is an observer at the meetings. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group welcomes the important role of the United Nations system in these endeavours in support of the Haitian authorities and the donor community at large.

40. The Group of Twelve Plus was an active partner in the creation of the new external aid coordination framework (*Cadre de coordination de l'aide externe au développement d'Haïti*), launched in November 2012 to establish better alignment between external development aid and national priorities. In March 2014, the first national meeting of the Committee on Aid Effectiveness, a body established under the framework, was held with a wide range of participants and led to a statement in which participants agreed to the implementation of a joint road map.

41. The operationalization of these mechanisms is to be made possible through the planning and study units set up in all line ministries. These units are pivotal in the process of conceptualizing, planning and monitoring projects as well as coordinating activities carried out by partners and providing support to the sector and thematic tables (*tables sectorielles et thématiques*). The latter are forums involving all actors and NGOs in a given sector, under the leadership of a specific ministry. In practice, the planning and study units remain weak, and progress in strengthening them is contingent on the will of individual ministers to carry out reforms and to make use of the units. Ministries should be further encouraged to operationalize these mechanisms in order to increase public accountability, donor confidence and aid delivery. The thematic and sector tables, which have produced mixed results, should also be used in a much more systematic way.

42. The alignment of aid with the Government's priorities and strategies is another area where progress could be made. The Haitian authorities expressed strong expectations as to the alignment of donor support. To make substantive progress in this area, the implementation of the triennial investment plans that operationalize the Strategic Plan should be prepared for in consultation with partners and with the strong involvement of sector ministries, well beyond the Ministry of Planning.

43. Progress on aid effectiveness requires increased transparency on various fronts. Donors are to adhere to transparency commitments by sharing information about their activities with the Ministry of Planning, which is responsible for tracking aid disbursements. At the same time, the donor community expects from the Government a number of institutional reforms related to the management of public finances, public administration and procurement processes. In this regard, the Group welcomes the elaboration of a new law on corruption. Reforms also require strengthening oversight institutions, including the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, and making information available to the parliament. It is also a matter of avoiding over-the-counter agreements (*contrats de gré à gré*) and keeping well-documented records of procurement procedures. Such reforms are likely to lead some donors to increase direct budgetary support. The Group urges all actors to take additional steps towards the full realization of their commitments in that respect.

44. Haitian development actors continue to ask for the simplification of disbursement procedures by donor organizations in order to accelerate project implementation. Several interlocutors of the Group agreed that some progress had been made in that respect, facilitated by the higher number of Haitian contractors capable of implementing activities. Given the importance of the issue in the perception of development support on the part of Haitian recipients, these procedures should be regularly reviewed and adjusted with a view to promoting efficiency in aid delivery.

45. The absence of a national budget approved by the parliament for the current year has been a barrier to greater aid effectiveness, as the Government is operating on the previous year's budget. The financing of more than half of the budget continues to depend on international support. The Government also benefits from funding under the Petrocaribe alliance, which represents a significant part of total domestic revenue and contributes to the funding of cash transfer and other programmes. Haiti and all its development partners would benefit from a regular dialogue on the budgetary implications of international support in order to promote predictability of resources and avoid unsustainable patterns.

46. Over the past year, the Government has taken steps to renew its partnerships with non-governmental organizations. On 8 October 2013, the Prime Minister opened the National NGO Forum, following a commitment made the previous year at a meeting held on the sidelines of the General Assembly to discuss the role of NGOs in the development process. Over 500 NGOs are now registered with and legally recognized by the Ministry of Planning. The Group, which has always met representatives of civil society during its visits, is encouraged by these developments. It praises the United Nations in Haiti for its efforts to promote civil society participation in aid coordination mechanisms, including the sectoral tables, although the actual contribution of NGOs has been uneven. There continues to be a need to clarify and streamline procedures and regulations for NGOs working in Haiti, and the Group encourages further work on the draft legislation prepared on the matter through an open and participatory process, with a view to renewing the collaborative relations between the Government and NGOs.

47. Mechanisms for major qualitative improvements in aid effectiveness are in place in Haiti. They should now be fully used to promote accountability and engage the country in a new phase of its relations with the donor community. The Government is driving the process and has devised relevant instruments to guide the whole development process. It should promote them collectively to donors in such a way as to ensure that they are aligned with the work of the various ministries. Follow-up to the road map developed in the context of the external aid coordination framework should be strengthened, including through greater involvement of Haitian leaders. The contribution of all partners, whether traditional or South-South cooperation actors, is also essential for the relevance of the process. The Group calls upon the Government of Haiti and all its partners to give high priority to this exercise.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

48. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group has witnessed continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010. While in the past it expressed concern as to a lack of vision of Haiti's medium- to long-term development, the Group is now encouraged by the existence of planning tools that articulate an ambitious agenda for Haiti and concrete development objectives. The Group also welcomes tangible progress made on the ground on the economic and social fronts and congratulates all Haitian development actors on their hard work in taking Haiti to the next step of its history.

49. As concrete as this progress may be, the Group continues to have concerns as to the sustainability of the development process in the current political circumstances. At the time of reporting, the holding of elections, which are long overdue, is uncertain and political tensions continue without a willingness to find agreeable solutions. These political disputes echo the weaknesses of regulatory institutions, including the justice system and corrections, and reveal how fragile the rule of law remains in Haiti. The willingness to abide by well-defined written norms and to build the administrative and judicial structures required to enforce them does not seem to have taken hold yet; hence the need for continued mentoring of and support for Haitian institutions. The Group is of the view that the capacity to provide assistance to Haitian

institutions should be scaled up as the United Nations peacekeeping presence is downscaled, with an important role being given to both MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. Such United Nations support is crucial to sustain development gains and move the positive momentum that exists on the ground to the next step.

50. Given Haiti's continued fragility and the economic and social needs associated with being a least developed country, Haiti's development partners should remain engaged with the Government and do so in a true partnership in which dialogue and transparency prevail on both sides. The Group encourages the Government and its partners to move forward in this direction and to consider drafting a compact in which the expectations of each part will be defined and medium-term goals set. For ease of reference, the main recommendations contained in the body of the present report are summarized below for the consideration of all relevant actors and for the Council.

51. In order to sustain the development process, the Group encourages Haiti's development partners to:

(a) Take an active part in the donor coordination mechanisms, in particular the external aid coordination framework, and work towards the implementation of joint commitments together with traditional donors and Southern partners;

(b) Take proactive steps to ensure that support is in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government of Haiti, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, the triennial investment plans and other follow-up documents, and maintain liaison with the relevant sectoral ministries to that end;

(c) Support the development of Haiti's productive capacities in key sectors such as tourism, agriculture and manufacturing, in accordance with decisions made by the Government;

(d) Continue to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation;

(e) Consider providing direct budgetary support, using government channels as much as possible and systematically including capacity-building components in their activities;

(f) Increase development support in the provinces, including in rural communities, and involve local authorities and civil society in these activities;

(g) Provide continued support to the national police and its development plan for the period 2012-2016 while increasing assistance to the judiciary and other key institutions for the rule of law;

(h) Respond to the calls made by United Nations entities to fund humanitarian activities addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, as well as calls to provide food assistance and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;

(i) Support capacity-building activities carried out by the United Nations country team and MINUSTAH and provide them with the means to sustain such activities in the medium to long term.

52. **In particular, the United Nations system is called upon to:**

(a) **Review the integrated strategic framework with a view to promoting a "Delivering as one" approach in United Nations development system activities and undertaking consolidated planning, fundraising and programme implementation;**

(b) **Plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of MINUSTAH in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the United Nations system in peacebuilding-related areas such as governance, institution-building and human rights issues, and consider how the United Nations can best support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through the possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by the Government of Haiti;**

(c) **Ensure that country offices of United Nations system entities receive appropriate backup and financial support from Headquarters to operate adequately in the transition phase;**

(d) **Increase development activities outside Port-au-Prince and take specific steps to strengthen capacities of local authorities and civil society in the provinces;**

(e) **Assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness through the provision of secretariat support to the Group of Twelve Plus and active participation in the external aid coordination framework.**

53. **The Group also wishes to draw the attention of the Haitian authorities to the need to:**

(a) **Take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections are held without further delay and to ensure that legitimate, credible and well-functioning local authorities are in place;**

(b) **Improve dialogue among the executive and legislative branches of government on the national budget with a view to its rapid adoption;**

(c) **Broaden the tax base and increase capacities to enforce fiscal legislation, among other efforts to strengthen administrative structures both in ministries and at the decentralized level;**

(d) **Fully operationalize the external aid coordination framework and its mechanisms, in accordance with the road map adopted earlier this year, including through the setting-up of planning and study units in key line ministries and the functioning of thematic and sectoral tables led by Haitian ministries;**

(e) **Accelerate reforms related to the management of public finances and procurement processes with a view to increasing transparency in development support;**

(f) **Pursue the operationalization of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, and enforce the new law against corruption;**

(g) **Deepen dialogue with civil society and accelerate the drafting of the draft legislation on the status and operations of non-governmental organizations;**

(h) **Continue to invest in social programmes aimed at reducing inequalities and provide humanitarian assistance to those who need it most;**

(i) **Continue to invest in the strengthening of the national police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.**

Annex

Programme of the visits of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to Washington, D.C., and Haiti

Visit to Washington, D.C., 29 April 2014

10:00	Meeting with representatives of the international financial institutions
	Mr. Agustin Aguerre, Manager, Haiti Country Department, Inter-American Development Bank
	Mr. Joseph Ntamatungiro, Senior Economist for Haiti, International Monetary Fund
	Ms. Michelle Keane, Lead Country Officer for Haiti, The World Bank
13:00	Working lunch
	Guest speaker: Mr. Ian Schwab, Associate Director of Advocacy, American Jewish World Service
15:00	Meeting with the Organization of American States (OAS)
	Discussion with members of the Core Group of the OAS on Haiti and OAS directors

Visit to Haiti, 12-15 May 2014

Monday, 12 May

12:00	Arrival at Toussaint Louverture International Airport
12:45	Meeting with Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i.
14:00	Meeting with Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
16:00	Meeting with Mr. Duly Brutus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti
18:30	Reception hosted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Tuesday, 13 May

09:00	Visit to Camp Dahomey, a camp for internally displaced persons managed by the International Organization for Migration
11:00	Visit to the nursing school and Isaie Jeanty maternity clinic and a maternal health centre
15:30	Meeting with the United Nations country team
19:00	Dinner with the Group of Twelve Plus (donor community)

Wednesday, 14 May

08:00	Breakfast with civil society representatives
10:00	Visit to a housing reconstruction project managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services at Morne Hercule
12:00	Meeting with the President of Haiti, Mr. Michel Martelly
15:30	Meeting with Mr. Simon Dieuseul Desrat, President of the Senate, and other parliamentarians
19:00	Cocktail reception hosted by the Embassy of Canada

Thursday, 15 May

09:00	Meeting with Mr. Laurent Lamothe, Prime Minister of Haiti and Minister of Planning and External Cooperation
11:00	Debriefing with the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i.
13:00	Departure for New York